

WAC 458-20-18601 Wholesale and retail cigarette vendor licenses. (1) Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

(a) "Wholesaler" is any person who purchases, sells, or distributes cigarettes to retailers for the purpose of resale only.

(b) "Retailer" is any person, other than a wholesaler, who purchases, sells, offers for sale or distributes cigarettes at retail and all persons operating under a retailer's registration certificate.

(c) "Place of business" is any location where business is transacted with, or sales are made to, customers. The term also includes any vehicle, truck, vessel, or the like at which sales are made.

(d) "Department" is the department of revenue.

(2) Wholesale license. Prior to the sale or distribution of cigarettes at wholesale, each wholesaler must first be issued a wholesale cigarette license from the department of licensing.

(a) Applications for license or renewal of license shall be made on forms supplied by the department of licensing and shall be accompanied by the annual license fee of \$650. A wholesale cigarette license shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.

(b) If the wholesaler sells, or intends to sell, cigarettes at more than one place of business, whether temporary or established, a separate license with a license fee of \$115 shall be required for each additional place of business. Each license shall be exhibited in the place of business for which it is issued.

(c) Each licensed wholesaler shall file a bond with the department in an amount determined by the department, which amount shall not be less than \$5,000. The bond shall be executed by the wholesaler as principal, and by a corporation approved by the department of licensing and authorized to engage in business as a surety company in this state, as surety. The bond shall run concurrently with the wholesaler's license.

(3) Retail license. Prior to the retail sale or distribution of cigarettes, each retailer must first be issued a retail cigarette license from the department of licensing.

(a) Applications for license or renewal of license shall be made on forms supplied by the department of licensing and shall be accompanied by the annual license fee of \$10. A retail cigarette license shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.

(b) Retailers operating cigarette vending machines are required to pay an additional fee of \$1 for each such vending machine.

(4) Persons acting as wholesalers and retailers. Persons may sell cigarettes both as retailers and wholesalers only if appropriate licenses are first secured for sales in both capacities. The sale of cigarettes by any person who does not possess a valid license authorizing such sale shall be considered a violation of this section.

(5) Revocation or suspension of license. The department shall revoke or suspend the license of any wholesale or retail cigarette dealer found to have violated the provisions of chapter 82.24 RCW, WAC 458-20-186, or this section. Upon a finding by the department of a failure to comply with the provisions of chapter 82.24 RCW, WAC 458-20-186, or this section, it shall:

(a) For the first offense, suspend the license or licenses of the offender for a period of not less than thirty consecutive business days;

(b) In the case of a second or multiple offense, suspend the license or licenses of the offender for not less than ninety consecutive business days nor more than twelve months;

(c) In the case of a finding that the offender is guilty of wilful and persistent violations, revoke the offender's license or licenses.

(6) Revocation or suspension hearing.

(a) If the department determines that a license holder has violated the provisions of chapter 82.24 RCW, WAC 458-20-186, or this section, a hearing will be scheduled to consider the license revocation or suspension of such license holder.

(b) The provisions of WAC 458-20-10001, Adjudicative proceedings--Brief adjudicative proceedings--Wholesale and retail cigarette license revocation or suspension--Certificate of registration (tax registration endorsement) revocation, applies to a revocation or suspension hearing.

(7) Reinstatement of license.

(a) Any person whose license or licenses have been revoked may apply to the department at the expiration of one year for a reinstatement of the license or licenses. The license or licenses may be reinstated by the department if it appears to the satisfaction of the department that the license holder will comply with the provisions of chapter 82.24 RCW, WAC 458-20-186, and this section.

(b) Application for reinstatement is to be made to the special programs division of the department. Upon receipt of an application for reinstatement of license, the department shall schedule a hearing for consideration of the application. Such hearing shall be held pursuant to WAC 458-20-10001.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 82.32.300. 95-07-068, ' 458-20-18601, filed 3/14/95, effective 4/14/95; 92-06-081, ' 458-20-18601, filed 3/4/92, effective 4/4/92.]